Mat 175

Clan Matheson Society

"FAC ET SPERA"

Chief and Chief of Clan:
COLONEL BERTRAM H. MATHESON OF MATHESON, M.C.

Chairman:
RONALD M. MATHESON, R.D., F.C.A.,
14 Kemerton Road, Beckenham, Kent. Tel.: 01 650 6116.

Treasurer:
ANGUS C. A. MATHESON,
3 Lankton Close, Beckenham, Kent. Tel.: 01 650 9969.

Secretary:
RICHARD J. MATHESON,
81 Lisbon Avenue, Twickenham. Tel.: 01 894 7191.
MIDDLESEX

Assistant Secretary:
DUGALD F. MATHESON,
8 Roebuck Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. Tel.: 01 504 8998.

News Letter No. 17

NEWS LETTER No. 17

The First Edinburgh Re-union Meeting and Dinner was held at the Epicure Restaurant, Shandwick Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 23rd August, 1969. The Chief was able to be present, and because of the success of this first occasion it is hoped another may be held in August next year, especially if there is likely to be a larger attendance. Fourteen persons attended this first meeting, but there were a number of last minute cancellations. Organisation is now in hand to facilitate accommodation on a date to coincide with the Commonwealth Games ~~next year.~~ 1970. This will be during the first week of the Games, and notice of the clan re-union will be advertised in the press. We would appreciate any advice or assistance, especially from anyone associated with the newspaper industry. Members should make their own bookings for the Games, but we would arrange for accommodation, for those who wish it, at a moderately priced, conveniently situated hotel, with excellent amenities, and those so requiring should apply to the Secretary.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held in London on 18th October, 28 persons attended, and it was generally acclaimed as being one of our most enjoyable functions. Amongst those present was The Lady Elizabeth Matheson. Major Sir Torquhil Matheson gave a most interesting account of a recent visit to Scotland this year, and the members of the clan he had met there. He expressed the necessity of individual families bringing their family records up to date as far as possible, by tracing the dates of grandparents, etc., for dates of birth, marriages, deaths, etc. (Details should be sent to the Secretary.) Notes which he has kindly sent to us are attached to this Newsletter.

The Secretary visited Brahan Castle on Tuesday, 26th August, 1969, the home of Captain and Mrs. Alick Matheson. Mrs. Matheson related some interesting historical aspects regarding the site, which would interest others able to visit Brahan Castle. A bus service runs to Maryburgh, from where a pleasant 2-3 miles walk or a short drive along a picturesque road brings one to the site.

He was also able to make a visit to see the life-size portrait of our Chief, painted about 40 years ago. This is in the residence of Colonel Baird, Palmer's Cross, Elgin. The house lies on the outskirts of Elgin on the road to the left of, and just past, Dr. Gray's Hospital. Col. Baird would be pleased to show this portrait to any members upon letting him know of their intended visit.

LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

New Life Members

Add:

Commander Patrick Hugh Matheson (R.N.), Ormiston, Hawick, Roxburghshire. Born London, England, 13/4/06. Retired. Hobbies: Local Government, Foreign Travel. Tel.: Hawick 2534.

The Lady Elizabeth Matheson, A.R.R.C., White Lodge, Springfield, Camberley, Surrey.

Norman M. Matheson, F.R.C.E., Ornsay, Woodlands Road, Virginia Water, Surrey. Tel.: Wentworth 2345.

New 5 Year Members

Add:

A. J. Mathieson, c/o 48 Peronne Avenue, Clontarf, Sydney, Australia.

New Annual Members

Add:

Seochan Matheson, 12 Bank Street, Plockton, Ross-shire.

Katie Matheson, 12 Bank Street, Plockton, Ross-shire.

Miss Iona Matheson, 19 Merton Terrace, London, S.W.1.

Mrs. Sonia Holman, 16 Montanna Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.20.

G. R. Matheson, P.O. Box 136, Te Aroh, New Zealand.

H. J. P. Matheson, 6 Layer Gardens, London, W.3.

A. Morrison, c/o Morrison Packaging Service, 24 Raymouth Road, London, S.E.12.

A. F. Matheson, 444 Victoria Road, Senate Appartments, 109 Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

Alterations

Donald Matheson, Limekilns, Fife. Deceased, now Mrs. Margaret Matheson widow of, etc.

Mrs. Anne Matheson, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, delete **Flat 27.**

Andrew F. L. Matheson, address now 19 Merrylee Road, Newlands, Glasgow, S.3. Tel.: 041-637-2633.

Delete A. J. Matheson, 1 Oakhurst Avenue, East Barnet, Herts., transferred to 5 Year Members, new address.

Rev. I. **M.** Matheson, East**man** Street; read **I. A.**, East**main** Street.

Continued on page 6

CLAN MATI

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FO

1968 £ s. d.	EXPENDITURE	£ s. d.
33 9 4	Postage, Printing and Stationery	25 3 5
— — —	Advertising	1 10 0
— — —	Written off Stock of Christmas Cards	20 0 0
— — —	Bank Charges and Cheque Book	1 1 1
47 8 10	Surplus for the period per Balance Sheet ...	12 9 5
	NOTE—Comparative figures are for the year ended 30th September, 1968.	
£81 15 0		£59 3 11

BALANCE SHEET

1968 £ s. d.	RESERVES and LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Accumulated Income Account—		
24 10 8	Balance at 1st October, 1968	51 19 6	
47 8 10	*Add* Surplus for the year ...	12 9 5	
71 19 6		64 8 11	
	Less Life Membership Subscriptions transferred to		
20 0 0	Reserves	25 0 0	
51 19 6			39 8 11
	Reserve Fund—		
150 0 0	Life Membership Subscriptions		175 0 0
10 19 7	Sundry Creditors		2 14 6
£212 19 1			£217 3 5

ON SOCIETY

HE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30th JUNE, 1969

1968 £ s. d.	INCOME	£ s. d.
20 0 0	Life Membership Subscriptions	25 0 0
21 0 0	Five Year Membership Subscriptions	12 0 0
3 11 2	Annual Subscriptions	15 0 0
— — —	Building Society Deposit Interest	1 17 11
36 10 3	Surplus on Sale of Christmas Cards	14 0
— — —	Sale of Tie	13 0
— — —	Surplus on Annual Dinners	3 19 0
£81 15 0		£59 3 11

AT 30th JUNE, 1969

1968 £ s. d.	ASSETS	£ s. d.
100 0 0	On Deposit with Abbey National Building Society	100 0 0
22 6 5	Balance at Bank	52 6 9
40 0 0	Block at Cost (Clan Crest)	40 0 0
45 16 8	Stock of Christmas Cards as valued	24 16 8
4 16 0	Sundries	— — —
£212 19 1		£217 3 5

Rev. C. W. Matheson (new address), The Manse, Ford Road, Upton, Wirral, Cheshire. Tel.: 051-677-1233.

Mrs. A. Batton read Batten (new address) Flat B, 60 Monkton Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, Hants.

Delete N. M. Matheson from Annual Members, transfered to Life Membership.

We are pleased to announce the birth of a son, in August, to Mr. and Mrs. Dugald Matheson, of Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

Information is sought regarding the following:

(1) John Matheson, late Seaforth Highlanders, last heard of 107 Brassey Street, Glasgow, sometime of 682 Argyll Street, Glasgow. Information to Macrae, Flett and Rennie, W.S., 57 Castle Street, Edinburgh (or Secretary).

(2) Harriet Mathieson (née Stacey) and William Gordon Mathieson, both of 43 Hunsden Road, New Cross, London, S.E.14, the former who died 4th January, 1969, at Miller Hospital, London, S.E.10. The latter was employed by the Delta Metal Co. Died 16th February, 1950. Information to Messrs. James and Charles Dodd, of 77 Lewisham High Street, London, S.E.13.

(3) The paternal ancestry of the late Rev. Dr. George Matheson (1842-1906). The blind preacher of Innellan. Information to Secretary or Dr. R. Mackay, 5 The Parklands, Finchfield, Wolverhampton. Tel. 752357.

For greater simplicity and convenience it is intended to show membership in alphabetical order in the future. This in due course will also include family members (where applicable), i.e., husband and/or wife, and children up to 18 years of age. The type of membership will be indicated after all other details, abbreviated as follows: LM, 5M, AM. In the meantime the Secretary would appreciate receiving any such alphabetical lists, compiled from the present issue, from anyone who has the time and typing facilities.

The Clan Matheson Greeting Cards, which are proving very popular, may be used for many different kinds of special occasions. Obtainable from A. C. Matheson, 3 Lankton Close, Beckenham, Kent (Tel.: 01-658-9960) at 16/- per doz. (U.K.), 17/- per doz. (Overseas).

May we remind Annual Members that Annual Subscriptions are now due at the end of June each year, and should be sent to

the Treasurer. It is hoped that any Annual Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year will now do so.

The Chief has asked us to express his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Clan.

By MAJOR SIR TORQUHIL MATHESON, Baronet

The principal source of information on Clan Matheson history is "The History of the Mathesons" by Alex Mackenzie and Alex Macbain, published by Mackay of Stirling in 1900. This was still obtainable at Soutar's Bookshop in Dingwall in 1945 but is, unfortunately, out of print.

At the Clan Society Dinner on 18th October it was apparent that there is great interest in the history of the clan and where members fit into the historical structure. I know that overseas Mathesons are also keen to trace their ancestry.

The Clan Historians are William Matheson of Edinburgh and Iain Matheson of Plockton.

I have always been very interested in the clan history and hope that one day the "History of the Mathesons" can be brought up to date and reprinted, but, before this can be possible, a great deal of information will be required which can only be supplied by members of the clan.

During last August I re-visited the churchyard at Kirkton of Lochalsh and I made the notes which follow from a few of the Matheson gravestones that I saw. The references are to pages of the "History of the Mathesons".

Duncan Mac Ian og Branch

1 Page 84. The following are all commemorated on one headstone:—

a.1. John, "the Wright", a boatbuilder and one time tenant of Achnadarrach, "died 14th May, 1860, aged 86 years".

b.5. Kenneth, tenant of Duirinish (5th son of John the Wright), "died at Duirinish 18th February, 1896, and Annabella his wife aged 85" (no date given).

b.5. (1) Duncan, 2nd son of Kenneth, and late of Hudson Bay Company's Service, "died in Inverness, 28th January, 1924".

John of Achtaytoralan Branch

2. Page 90.
   b.4. Dr. Farquhar Matheson, M.D., J.P. He has an obelisk memorial. "Born at Dornie 5th May, 1840, died in London 23rd August, 1905."

3. Page 91. VII John, also called John Og.
   The headstone reads:—
   "A man of great kindness of heart and much renowned for his hospitality, who departed this life on the 28th day of December, 1810, aged 90 years. Also his spouse Magaret MacRae."

Family of Dugald Og.

4. Page 109, line 10.
   Donald, lately steamboat agent at Balmacara (grandson of a.2. Donald).
   "Died 22nd October, 1868, also his wife Janet died 5th January, 1896."

Family of Iomaire

5. Page 119.
   5.a.2. Alexander, 26 years Minister of Glenshiel. Obelisk. "Born at Achmore 16th February, 1832. Died in Glenshiel 13th January, 1890."

I would be interested to know the lineage of (1) Lauchlan Matheson, born 1823 and who died at Conchra 10th August, 1899. (2) Hector Matheson, died Plockton 1872.

I hope that from time to time I shall be able to add a few notes to the Newsletter from more information that I have been able to get together and that other members will also contribute, telling the Secretary all they can about their families and antecedents with, where possible, dates and places of birth. This will help the Clan Historians and we of the present day will be able to see in the Newsletter progress as it takes place. If members will co-operate I am sure that it can be done.

Clan Matheson Society

Chief of Clan :
Colonel BERTRAM H. MATHESON of MATHESON, M.C.

Hon. Treasurer :
MALCOLM L. C. MATHIESON,
10 Stanhope Gardens,
Highgate, London, N.6.
Telephone : 01-340-7325

Hon. Secretary :
RICHARD J. MATHESON,
81 Lisbon Avenue,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
Telephone : 01-894-7191

Hon. Membership Secretary :
ANGUS C. A. MATHESON,
The Matheson Paper Co. Ltd.,
80 Chancery Lane, London, E.C.3.
Telephone : 01-405-5366/7

News Letter No. 18

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will again be held at Amandini's Grill, 3 Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, opposite Holborn Underground Station, on Saturday, 24th October, 1970, at 6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m. Dinner will be approximately 27s. 6d. with a choice of two main and three desert menus, and may be paid at the time, but please let the Secretary know in good time if you will be able to attend, so that numbers may be finalised before the date.

The present Officers and Committee will resign at this meeting and nominations for the new Officers and Committee should be received not later than at the time of the Annual General Meeting.

The month of July has not proved generally suitable for a further re-union again this year in Edinburgh, to coincide with the Commonwealth Games there, but it has been decided that in future, further re-unions will be held in Scotland, preferably during the month of August. These may be held anywhere in Scotland depending on preference and suitability, and not necessarily in Edinburgh. Suggestions from members will be welcomed. If, however, any overseas members are visiting the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh this year, Major Sir Torqhuil Matheson would be pleased to meet them at his home (Standerwick Court, Frome, Somerset) if they are at any time in the vicinity. This applies also, of course, to any of our members in this country.

He also wishes to thank Miss Bobbie Matheson of Australia, Mrs. M. Matheson of Edinburgh, and Dr. Mackay of Northampton for their assistance in the supply of records and information, in his efforts to bring the clan history up to date. He is of the opinion that it would also be helpful to those who wish to assist in this undertaking, if it were possible to have the last issue (1900) re-printed. The possibility of this will be considered if there is sufficient response and members who would like to buy a copy should write to the Secretary.

Our Membership List (with initials in alphabetical order) has now been revised. The names of members and families, wife and children (up to 18 years of age) will be shown separately. Will

members who would like their families shown separately please complete the enclosed form and post to the Secretary.

The Secretary has received a letter from the Rev. J. Ure Stewart of Box 401, Seaforth, Ontario, Canada, who is Secretary of the Canadian "Ontario" Mathesons, all of whom are descendents of McLeod Mathesons. The Rev. Stewart expressed his pleasure at learning of the Clan Matheson Society, and gave details of their own first re-union last year, at which over 250 people were present at Southside Park, Woodstock, 8 miles from the place where his great grandparents and their children lived on arriving in Canada in 1834 in Oxford County, Ontario.

They have plans to hold their second re-union at the same place this year on 20th June. He is at present revising the genealogy which will consist of about 150 pages when completed and contain over 1,000 names. The Rev. J. Ure Stewart is 87 years of age.

We were delighted to hear of this Canadian Branch, and hope that in the near future there will be a closer link-up between our two groups and a valuable exchange of records and information.

The Caledonian Schools "Open Day" will be held at Bushey, Herts, on Saturday, 11th July, 1970, from 2.30 p.m. It is hoped that as many of our "local" members as possible will be able to attend.

The following alterations should be made to the Membership List :—

Life Member, England : Richard J. Matheson; new address—81 Lisbon Avenue, Twickenham, Middlesex. Tel.: 01-894-7191.

5 Year Members : Miss Ellen Matheson and Mrs. Margaret Dear; read Kinloss for Kinross.

Annual Members, Scotland : Read "Mrs." before M. J. R. Matheson. Read Moat Drive for Moat Street.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members since our last issue :—

Life Member, Scotland : George Leslie Matheson, F.B.O.A., 38 High Street, Wick, Caithness. Born Balloch, Dunbartonshire, 28/10/21. Optician. Hobbies : Trout Fishing, Sea Angling, Rough Shooting, Wild Fowling, Bee Keeping, Brandy, Beer and Wine Making. Telephone : Wick 3157.

Life Member, England : G. J. Mathieson, 44 Priory Road, Kew, Surrey.

Life Member, Overseas : Lorne Alexander Matheson, Ph.D., 650-11th Street, Boulder, Colorado, 80302 U.S.A. Born London, Ontario, Canada, 17/12/05. Research Scientist. Hobbies : Hiking, Skating. Telephone : 303-442-7624.

Annual Members, Scotland : Rev. J. G. Matheson, M.A., B.D., 15 Abbotsford Court, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, 10.

Annual Members Subscriptions (still only 10s. 0d.) for the year June, 1970—June, 1971, should be forwarded to reach the Treasurer by 1st July, 1970.

Please notify the Secretary of any permanent change of address in order that correct records may be maintained.

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

NEWS LETTER No. 19

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held at Amandini's Grill, Southampton Row, London, W.C. 1, on Saturday, 24th October, 1970. The Chief of the Clan was present and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Major Sir Torquhill Matheson Bart., was elected to the Committee.

We wish to congratulate Iain Matheson of Plockton, on his success in the Radio "Brain of Britain" contest in July this year and our best wishes also to his daughter, Alison on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Peter A. B. Mitchell at Plockton on 16th October.

Our best wishes also to Mrs. Rosemary Cornish (nee Matheson) and her husband Leonard on the birth of a son, Andrew, and to Margaret Matheson, our Convener's daughter, on her engagement to Mr. Richard Shaw.

The new layout of the Newsletter, first proposed by Jennifer Mathieson seems to have received the general approval of our Members. Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are invited on any subject of Clan interest. Family histories and events are welcome and should be sent to the Secretary.

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members since the last issue:—

Mrs. Bridget A. Colvin, Newland House, Withypool, Minehead, Somerset. Born, Petworth, Sussex, 17/10/1915. Life Member.

Miss Isobel Matheson, Monach Villa, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland. Annual Member.

Mrs. Kathleen A. Urquhart, Ardmor, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland. Annual Member.

Miss Agnes Matheson, 125 Needless Road, Perth. Annual Member.

John Monteath Matheson, V.R.D., Stoneleigh, 81 Langside Drive, Glasgow S.3. Stockbroker. Life Member.

The following alterations should be made to the Membership list:—

Life Members, England

Ian M. Matheson, Corby, Hants, new address—20 Richmond Road, Corby, Northants. Tel. Corby 4182.

Norman M. Matheson, Virginia Water, Surrey, for Wentworth read 099-04-2345.

Overseas Members

Ian Ross Matheson, South Africa. Delete Agric. Dip. Gordon Memorial Museum from before address. Place after birth details.

Information is sought on the ancestry of any Mathesons from Torboll, Pittentrail and/or Dalmore, Sutherlandshire. Details to Secretary in first instance.

A remaining few dozen Clan Matheson greetings cards are now being sold at 12/- per dozen (14/- per dozen overseas), crossed cheques or P.O.'s made payable to Clan Matheson Society, should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Volunteers are required please to send out the Society's new Brochure to Mathesons and Mathiesons, who might be interested in becoming members of the Society. It is felt that this might best be achieved by using area telephone directories, etc. Will any who feel able to undertake this work please write to the Membership Secretary (address on page 1), with an indication of the number of brochures needed and the area it is proposed to cover. Postage will of course be refunded on application to the Treasurer.

Dr. George Matheson

We are indebted to Dr. R. L. Mackay of Wolverhampton, for notes on the life of Dr. George Matheson, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S.E., who wrote the well known hymn "O love that wilt not let me go", perhaps one of the most inspiring and at the same time most sympathetic hymns ever written. Indeed it is possible to read it simply as poetry and to admire its construction, choice of words and restraint in their use.

Dr. Matheson was born in 1842, in Glasgow, of middle class parents. His father, also George Matheson, was born in Dornoch and later was a founder of the business of Wilson and Matheson in Glassford Street, Glasgow.

Dr. Matheson was one of eight children and became a student at Glasgow University, attaining an honours distinction in Philosophy.

His eyesight was never good and latterly he saw only shadows, but he was always cheerful and dictated his essays to his eldest sister, Jane. He wrote many articles and a number of books using Braille and a typewriter.

He was at first Assistant Minister at Sandyford Church, Inellan, and his name became a household word throughout Scotland.

"O love that wilt not let me go" was written in 1882. Apparently he wrote it in little more than five minutes and it did not require any "re-touching", although the hymn committee asked him to change his original line "I climbed the rainbow through the rain", to the version we now know: "I trace the rainbow through the rain". Whatever the reason, one likes to know how he himself saw it and some may prefer the original.

He was called to St. Bernard's Church in Edinburgh in 1886, retired in 1897 and died in 1906. He was buried in the family vault at Glasgow Necropolis and this information may be helpful to those wishing to enquire further. Dr. Mackay has also given us rather more information that it has been possible to reproduce

in this Newsletter and the Secretary will be pleased to send a copy to any member who cares to send a stamped and addressed envelope. His biography The Life of George Matheson, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S.E., by D. McMillan, was published by Hodder and Stoughton in 1907.

CONVENER.

MAJOR PATRICK GRANT MATHESON

(Father of the 12th Chief)

He was the 2nd son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, tenth chief, and his wife Grace, 4th daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston.

A short biography of him appears on pages 47 and 48 of the clan history by Mackenzie and Macbain (2nd edition), but it is not detailed and there would appear to be an inaccuracy concerning his wife's family and of the date of his death. To quote "He married in India, Hannah Mills Butler, daughter of James Major Orde, an officer of the Commissariat Department. . . ." And again ". . . at Delhi, where he died in 1835. His death is referred to in the obituary of the Bengal 'Englishman' of January the 17th, in that year; and in the Delhi 'Gazette' as follows:—on Wednesday 15th, inst., Captain P.G.M., Comissary of Ordnance. . . ."

Recently, I came across a book "List of Officers of the Honourable East India Company's Bengal Army, 1758-1834", by Mr. V. Hodson (published in London, 1927). In it there is considerable detail of P.G.M.'s service and of his marriage, which I give below in an edited form.

"P.G.M. (1789-1834) was baptised at Knockbain, Co. Ross, on 8th August, 1789, and was the 2nd son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, a Lieutenant in the Gordon Fencibles, and Grace his wife, 4th daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston. P.G.M. married, in Dinapore, India, on 10th July, 1813, Hannah Mills Butler, daughter of Alexander Aird, a Conductor of Ordnance and sister of Robert Abercrombie Aird (to whom there is a reference in the Appendices of the book. There is no reference to children, though his eldest son J. B. Y. Matheson has an entry in his own right as a distinguished officer in H.E.I.C. service).

P.G.M.'s promotions and services, together with the references, are summarised as follows:—

Born: 28th July, 1789.

Cadet: 1808.

Fireworker: 24th September, 1808 (an artillery officer, who has to do with explosives in War.)

Arrived in India: 16th November, 1808.

Lieutenant: 23rd October, 1811.

Captain: 12th December, 1821.

Died at Delhi: 15th October, 1834.

Nepal War, 1814-1815: Pursa; Lieutenant 6th Company, 2nd Battalion Foot Artillery with the 4th Division.

Third Maheratta War, 1817-1818: Lieutenant, 2nd Troop Horse Artillery. At Jawad (blew open the gate).

Appointed to charge of Ordnance Commissariat at P.W.I., 27th February, 1819.

Commissary of Ordnance: 25th September, 1819.

Returned to India: February, 1821.

Appointed to charge of Delhi Magazine: 2nd March, 1821 and to Allahabad: 5th November, 1823.

Returned to Delhi Magazine, 1833.

References: History of the Mathesons, Alex Mackenzie, p. 30.
(Note: this must be the 1st Edition.)
Burkes Landed Gentry: s.n. Grant of Glenmoriston.
Stubbs ii, 27-8. A.J.N.S.. XVI. 272.
Will dated 9th May, 1816; proved 10th January, 1835.

In conclusion it would appear that Mackenzie and Macbain made a mistake over P.G.M.'s wife's maiden name, and that P.G.M. did in fact die on 15th October, 1834 and not 15th January, 1835. Neither the month nor year of the Delhi Gazette is mentioned—only 15th inst., which is a figure agreed within the H.E.I.C. officers' book. Coupling the Delhi Gazette date with the Bengal "Englishman" of 17th January, 1835, was unfortunate. Finally, wills are not normally proved before death.

To complete the story for those not fortunate enough to have a copy of the clan history, P.G.M. pre-deceased his elder brother John who was the eleventh chief and who was married to Ann, daughter of the Rev. Robert Arthur, minister of Resolis in the Black Isle. John died without issue in May, 1843.

P.G.M. had 3 sons and 3 daughters.

1. James Brooks Young, already referred to and who succeeded as chief on the death of his Uncle John in 1843.
2. Thomas Theophilus Metcalf, a Lieutenant in H.M.'s 39th Regt., who died in India in 1839.
3. Ian Grant, a Colonel in H.E.I.C. Service. His story is somewhat of a mystery at the moment, and I hope to unravel it.
4. Susan Eleanor, died in infancy.
5. Isabella Maria Grant, who married Major James Charles Claud Hamilton of H.E.I.C.'s Bengal European Light Infantry.
6. Hannah Grace, who married Lieutenant Colonel H. King, of H.E.I.C.'s 13th Bengal Native Infantry.

TORQUILL MATHESON.

Clan Matheson Society

NEWS LETTER No. 20

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner will be held at The Quality Inn, opposite Victoria Main Line & Underground Station (by Bus Terminus) at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. on Saturday 30th October, 1971, at £1·30 (+ 10%) each. Please inform Secretary if able to attend—pay there. Nominations for Committee Membership should be received by this date.

The Reverend J. Ure Stewart, President of the Clan Matheson section of Canada, has now completed his book on the descendants of John and Ann (McLeod) Matheson of Dornoch, Sutherlandshire. This is a 180 page book, loose leaf for additional information, and contains a brief history of Clan Matheson, 2 samples of the tartan, Coat of Arms, specially marked map of Scotland, photographs of persons and groups etc., brief account of over 1,700 individuals from over 500 families, references, etc., and is in a red hard back cover at $6 per copy. Enquiries for same should be made totheir Secretary—Mrs. E. M. Cox, 72 Obermeyer Drive, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

We were pleased to hear of the success of Kevin Ross Docherty, son of Mrs. Isobel Docherty (nee Matheson), in gaining his B.A. degree at McGill University, Canada. Several Mathesons have graduated from McGill University over the years.

A few of our members were able to attend the Richmond Highland Gathering on Saturday, June 12th this year where better weather was enjoyed by the later date.

The Caledonian Schools are holding a Scottish Gathering and Sale at the London Scottish Drill Hall, 59 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1., on Friday and Saturday 19th/20th November, 1971. It is hoped as many of our local members as possible will be able to attend this ever popular occasion.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members since the last issue of the News Letter:—

W. D. Matheson, "Braehead", Gower Street, Brora, Sutherland. AM

Miss Julia Matheson, 35 Yorke Road, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Herts. LM

W. H. Matheson, 34 Rue de Rocher, Paris 8, France. AM (Pending)

Revd. J. Ure Stewart, Box 401, Seaforth, Ontario, Canada. HM

Mrs. E. M. Cox, 72 Obermeyer Drive, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. AM

John Davie-Mathieson, 8 Hill Close, Charlbury, Oxon. LM

Mrs. E. (McLeod) Matheson, 6 Meadow Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada. AM (Pending)

The following alterations should be made to the membership list:—

Transferred to Life Membership—

Dr. B. Matheson, Essex.

E. J. M. Matheson, Saudi Arabia.

H. J. P. Matheson, London W.5.

Read JAMES Monteith Matheson, Glasgow, instead of John.

A few dozen remaining Clan Matheson Greetings Cards are now being sold off at 60p per dozen (70p per dozen overseas). These cards can be used for Christmas, New Year, and many other special occasions at any time. Application for same should be made to the Membership Secretary (or any Committee Member).

The early history of some clans is often obscure through lack of written records, but perhaps the poems of Ossian may afford some clue as to our own clan's early origins, in which it is related how one Colmar MacMahon of Ireland assisted in the Scottish and Irish battles of the Gaelic foke lore hero Fingal. Some mention is said to have been made of this in the Iomaire Manuscript of Roderick Matheson.

It is known that at some time in the 11th and 13th Centuries AD certain Irish personnages sailed North from Ireland to seek the assistance of the Norwegian ships, mainly in repelling influxes of peoples from the Southern parts of Scotland into Ireland, and a MacMahon is thought to have sailed into Loch Alsh to have offered his assistance to the Scottish King, mainly in repelling Norwegian incursions on this part of the coast, and for this was awarded with lands in the Loch Alsh district. This may have been

during the time of the Norwegian raids of Magnus Barefoot (ccAD1098) or a period between the reigns of Kings MacAlpin and Alexander I (843 - 1124 AD). Could somewhat similar incidents have occurred twice within 3 centuries ?

Perhaps early Irish history may help to throw some light on these early events, for it begins to be fairly well recorded in many respects from about the time of Cormac MacAirt (AD275 - 300), somewhere at about which time the Fionna was founded and from which came the celebrated Fingal, (Finn), of whom there is such scanty historical evidence, and whose son Ossian related the many tales of war and valour of the various tribes of Ireland and Scotland.

The Irish clan system began to emerge historically in the 11th Century AD, and Clan MacMahon, along with other Irish clans, can be traced back to earlier origins than this period.

The spelling of names from these early times often differed considerably, before they were Anglicised from the Gaelic (and even since in some cases), but perhaps somewhere among these obscure facts and names and dates there may lie some approximate indication of our own clan origins in Scotland.

R. J. MATHESON (Secretary)